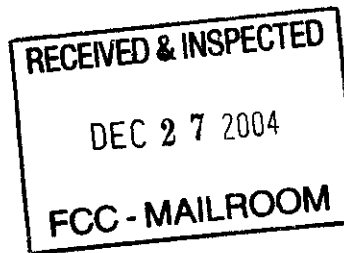


December 13, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

There is no rational explanation for imposing new charges and fees on the prepaid calling cards services that our military service personnel rely on so heavily. The FCC must act against any effort to make pre-paid calling cards more expensive.

American men and women become soldiers, sailors, airman and Marines to improve themselves as individuals while providing a blanket of freedom for all Americans. When deployed, our troops must often make sacrifices to meet their financial obligations back home, particularly our reservists who are called away from their jobs. The price of calling home can be high but our troops will call at any price just to let their families know that they are safe. That is why low cost pre-paid calling cards are so popular.

The last thing the FCC should do now is make the lives of our soldiers more difficult by increasing the cost of calling home. But if the FCC decides to add new fees to calls placed using prepaid cards, you are doing nothing more than eating into the already limited resources of our service personnel in combat. New fees will undoubtedly make the cost of using pre-paid calling cards go up.

When you're an American soldier in Afghanistan or Iraq, calling home for just a few cents a minute is something you look forward to: both to comfort your family and to lift your own morale. It would be nothing short of tragic for the FCC to erode the purchasing power of calling cards for our soldiers who are serving far away from home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Eckert".

Mark Eckert
Senior Master Sergeant, USAF, Retired
12119 Mount Baldy Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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A handwritten number "0" in black ink, written over a horizontal line.